

**24 CFR Part 58 - HUD Environmental Review  
Environmental Assessment (EA) Checklist**

**NOTE: The Environmental Assessment Checklist consists of the Categorically Excluded (CAT X) Checklist criteria *plus* the following below. Follow the CAT X checklist instructions for questions 1-16 and then move to the instructions below to complete questions 17-39.**

**Note to Preparer:** Use the questions below to prepare your comments regarding checklist criteria #17-39. Each question does NOT need to be answered separately. Review the questions in order to make a general conclusion and then prepare comments. Supporting documentation *may* be attached, but is **not** required. **Remember that your comments must contain at least 150 characters and spaces in order to be accepted in the online WebGrants system. Contact the HCD Environmental Review Specialist with any questions.**

17	Conformance with Comprehensive Plans and Zoning	<p>1. Is the proposal consistent with completed components of the local or regional comprehensive plan, whether adopted or in draft state? Is there a relevant state plan and is the proposal consistent?</p> <p>2. Is the proposed project consistent with other plans including those prepared by area wide planning agencies, special districts and boards and state agencies in various functional areas?</p> <p>3. Is the proposed project consistent with adopted community or area wide policies and goals?</p> <p>4. Does the proposed project comply with existing zoning and subdivision regulation? If not, does the proposal require a zoning variance?</p>
18	Compatibility and Urban Impact	<p>1. What are the existing land uses adjacent to the proposed project? Do those whose property abuts the project and neighbors think the proposed project will be incompatible with existing uses?</p> <p>2. Will the project have an adverse effect on the economy of a core city area? Will it contribute to urban sprawl? Will it displace economic activity from a central business district?</p> <p>3. Will the proposed project result in induced development which will alter existing land use or which will be incompatible with the existing scale and density of development? Are the changes that will result from any induced development regarded by the community as beneficial or negative?</p> <p>4. Does the proposed project contribute to reducing the racial, ethnic and income segregation of the area's housing?</p>

19	Slope	1. Does the proposal call for development on a steep slope and, if so, does its design plan include measures to overcome potential erosion, slope stability and runoff problems?
	Slope	2. Does the county, local or site-specific soil survey mention that slopes are unstable for any of the soils on the site?  3. Is there a history of slope failure in the project area?  4. Is there visual indication of previous slides or slumps in the project area, such as cracked walls or tilted trees or fences?

20	Erosion	1. Does the project involve development of an erosion sensitive area (near water, on a steep slope, on a sandy or silty soil)? If so, is erosion control included as part of the plan?  2. Does the proposed project create slopes by cut and fill?  3. Does site clearance require vegetation removal? How many acres will be cleared and for how long?  4. Is there evidence of erosion or sedimentation?
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21	Soil Suitability	1. Is there any visible evidence of soil problems--foundation cracking or settling, basement flooding, etc.--in the neighborhood of the project site?  2. Have soil bores been made for the area? Do they indicate marginal or unsatisfactory soil conditions?  3. If the answer to either of the above questions is <b>yes</b> and the proposed project involves either new construction or very substantial rehabilitation activities, does the project design include appropriate mitigation measures to address the problem of poor soil conditions?
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22	Energy Consumption	1. Does the location of the site have any special energy related advantages or disadvantages? Can these be maximized or overcome?  2. Have the architectural plans taken full advantage of potential energy saving measures, such as insulation, window design and placement, lighting, heating, cooling and hot water systems? Are they in conformance with HUD Minimum Property Standards and other applicable energy saving codes?  3. Is the project close to transit, shopping, services and employment locations?
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23	Hazards, Nuisances and Site Safety	<p>1. Site Hazards: Shadows, inadequate street lighting, uncontrolled access to lakes and streams, improperly screened drains or catchment areas, steep stairs or walks, overgrown brush, lack of access for emergency vehicles, hazardous waste dumps, uranium mill tailings, used as foundation or building material, radioactive reclaimed phosphate land, facilities handling chemicals and/or petrochemicals of an explosive or fire prone nature.</p> <p>2. Traffic: circulation conflicts, road safety, and exposure to radiation or toxic substances.</p> <p>3. Natural Hazards: Climatic: wind, droughts, floods, lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, hail and snowstorms; Geological: erosion, landslides, volcanoes, earthquakes; Biological: infestations, allergies, bacterial, viral and fungal diseases.</p> <p><i>Does the project involve any of the potential hazards listed above? Are there any not listed including hazards created by project construction, operation and design as well as those existing on and near the site?</i></p>
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24	Noise – Contribution to Community Noise Levels	<p>1. Will the proposed <u>project</u> create excessive noise for the ‘noise sensitive areas’ around it?</p> <p>(For example, if the project is a manufacturing business, is it likely to create unwanted noise for the libraries, hospitals, or housing in the area, especially between the hours of 10 pm &amp; 8 am?)</p>
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25	Demographic/Community Character Changes	<p>1. What is/are the identifiable community(ies) within the sphere of likely impact of the proposed project? What are the factors which contribute to the character of the community(ies)?</p> <p>2. Will the proposed project significantly alter the demographic characteristics of the community?</p> <p>3. Will the proposed project result in physical barriers or difficult access which will isolate a particular neighborhood or population group, making access to local services, facilities and institutions or other parts of the city more difficult?</p> <p>4. Will the proposed project severely alter residential, commercial or industrial uses?</p> <p>5. Will the proposed project destroy or harm any community institution, such as a neighborhood church?</p>
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26	Displacement	<p>1. Will the project directly displace individuals or families? How many persons? Is the displacement covered by the Uniform Relocation Act and are funds available for payments?</p> <p>2. Will the project destroy or relocate existing jobs, community facilities or any business establishments? Is the displacement covered by the Uniform Relocation Act and are funds available for payments?</p> <p>3. Are relocation funds available for families or individuals who may be directly displaced?</p> <p>4. Will identifiable groups be affected--older persons, females, single-parent families, racial/ethnic, or income groups, or minority group members?</p> <p>5. Are replacement facilities or housing units available within the community or in nearby neighborhoods? What will be the effect of relocation on these neighborhoods?</p> <p>6. Will the project result in probable indirect displacement? If so, have measures been planned to alleviate the hardship on those affected whose displacement is not covered under the Act?</p>
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27	Employment and Income	<p>1. Will the project either significantly increase or decrease employment opportunities? Will it create conditions favorable or unfavorable to commercial, industrial, or institutional operation or development?</p> <p>2. How many temporary and how many permanent jobs will be created by the project?</p> <p>3. What is the profile of new jobs created by the project? What is the distribution across the skills and income scale? How do these relate to the skills and income profile of project area residents?</p> <p>4. Will the new jobs likely go to area residents to lower income, unemployed and minority group members? Will construction jobs likely go to union or non-union workers?</p>
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28	<p>Educational Facilities</p> <p>Note: When the project is replacement of existing infrastructure, it will not have any impact on the educational facilities in the area.</p>	<p>1. Will the additional school age children in the proposed development exceed the capacity of existing or planned school facilities?</p> <p>2. Does the potentially affected school(s) have adequate and safe access facilities (i.e., walking paths, bus routes, crosswalks and guards) given any calculations done for projected population increase? Are these adequate both in terms of safety and access?</p> <p>3. Will additional or alternative facilities have to be provided to ensure safety and suitable access?</p> <p>4. What measures will be taken by the superintendent or school's governing body to resolve potential problems/conflicts?</p>
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29	Commercial Facilities	<p>1. Is there adequate and convenient access to retail services? In the case of elderly, this means that shopping for such essential items as food and medicine is within three blocks and services such as banks and other convenience shopping are within walking distance.</p> <p>2. Will existing retail and commercial services be adversely impacted by the proposed project? Will existing businesses be placed at a competitive disadvantage or be displaced?</p>
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30	Health Care	<p>1. Are non-emergency health care services located within a reasonable proximity to the proposed project, i.e., less than a half-hour's drive or commute away? (In dense urban areas an even shorter time period may set the standards.)</p> <p>2. Is emergency health service available within approximately three to five minutes? Such service can often be provided by police and fire personnel as well as by ambulance staff.</p> <p>3. Can ambulance trips to a hospital or other health care center be made within 10 to 15 minutes?</p> <p>4. Is the number of doctors, dentists, nurses and other trained medical staff in realistic proportion to any increase in residents/users?</p> <p>5. If not, can provision be made for additional skilled staff?</p> <p>6. Will project residents/users require special medical services or skills such as geriatric clinics?</p> <p>7. Will the local comprehensive health-planning agency be contacted in the event that an increase in population from a proposed development causes a situation of increased or over capacity for area health care services? Consult the local area health systems agency to determine an estimate of number of hospital beds and other facilities needed. If over capacity is anticipated, the local comprehensive health-planning agency should be approached for possible alternative plans</p>
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31	Social Services	<p>1. Are social services currently located in close proximity to the prospective users/residents? Are they within walking distance or convenient to public transportation and less than one-half hour's commute?</p> <p>2. Is the number of trained staff including social workers, counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and related administrative and managerial personnel in realistic proportion to the anticipated increase residents/users? If not, could provision readily be made for additional skilled staff?</p> <p>3. Will the demand for the social services increase and overburden existing facilities, can provision be made to obtain alternative and/or additional space?</p>
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32	Solid Waste	<p>1. Will the planned solid waste disposal system adequately service the proposed development?</p> <p>2. As a result of the project, will the design capacity of these facilities be exceeded?</p> <p>3. Will the proposed project be adversely affected by proximity to these facilities?</p> <p>4. Does the community have an adequate number of vehicles to provide the project with collections service?</p> <p>5. Will the residents/users or proposed project have to pay annual/monthly costs for these services? Will these costs create severe financial hardships for project residents? (This can be a real consideration if low income or elderly are primary users.)</p>
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33	Waste Water	<p>1. Will existing or planned waste water systems adequately service the proposed development?</p> <p>2. As a result of the project, will the design capacity of these facilities be exceeded?</p> <p>3. Will the proposed project be adversely affected by proximity to these facilities?</p> <p>4. In less developed areas, are soils suitable for on-site wastewater disposal such as septic systems?</p> <p>5. Where onsite disposal is necessary, will the state or local health agency issue a permit?</p>
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34	Storm Water	<p>1. Will existing or planned storm water disposal and treatment systems adequately service the proposed development?</p> <p>2. Will the project overload the design capacity of these facilities?</p> <p>3. Will the proposed project be adversely affected by proximity to these facilities?</p>
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35	Water Supply	<p>1. Will either the municipal water utility or on-site water supply system be adequate or serve the proposed project?</p> <p>2. Is the water supply quality safe from a chemical and bacteriological standpoint?</p>
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36	Public Safety--Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical	<p>1. Does the project location provide adequate access to police, fire and emergency medical services? Does the project design provide easy access for emergency vehicles and individuals? Are there obstacles to access, such as one-way roads, narrow bridges, waterways, expressways, and railroads that would prohibit access in an emergency situation? Will the project create such obstacles?</p> <p>2. Is the quality of the police and fire protection services available to the project adequate to meet project needs?</p> <p>3. Does the area have a particularly high crime rate? Are there special plans for a security system that has been approved by the police department? Is the architectural configuration of the development such that it is easily patrolled by police from the street?</p> <p>4. Will the project create a burden on existing facilities in terms of manpower and/or equipment? Can services either be expanded or be provided by the project, such as an in-house security force?</p>
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37/38	Recreation – Open Space & Cultural Activities	<p>1. Are open space, recreational and cultural facilities within reasonable proximity (i.e., walking distance) to the project area? Is adequate public transportation available from the project to these facilities? (Note: small children and elderly persons need such facilities to be in very close proximity to their residences.)</p> <p>2. Is there an adequate supply of these resources for the users or resident population of the development?</p> <p>3. Will the CDBG project cause any overloading of existing facilities?</p> <p>4. Are the special needs of certain population groups able to be satisfied, such as small children or the elderly and handicapped? For example, are there tot lots for very small children, playgrounds for elementary school children, drop-in centers for senior citizens and ball fields for teenagers?</p> <p>5. If the development is housing, has space for informal play for children of all ages been included on-site? Have areas for passive recreation?</p>
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39	Transportation	<p>1. Will transportation facilities and services be adequate to meet the needs of the project's users? Is off-street parking available and adequate? Is adequate public transportation available?</p> <p>2. Are there special transportation issues (programs for the elderly and handicapped, bridge clearances for trucks, emergency vehicle access) that have not been adequately provided for?</p>
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